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## Links to Previews of the 2006 Edinburgh Festivals

It goes without saying that shows that are picked out by critics in previews do not necessarily go on to be hits. Cynically, one might even take the view that those shows which garner the most picks are simply more successful at the PR game. However, previews are useful. We tend to use them to validate our own short list. Any likely shows that we had not previously spotted usually go onto a "possibles" list, and we will then look out for reviews and personal recommendations before making any final decisions on them.

## Summary of Top Picks by Critics (Final Update 7th August 2006)

Links to individual previews follow further down the page. However, for information only, here are the top picks – those shows with the highest number of "recommendations" from critics across the various previews that we have read to date:

- [Black Watch](#)
- [Girl Blog from Iraq: Baghdad Burning](#)
- [My Name is Rachel Corrie](#) (we have previously seen this at the Royal Court, London and recommend it)
- [Allegiance – Winston Churchill and Michael Collins](#)
- [Talk Radio](#)
- [Chanbara](#)
- [Doug Stanhope](#)
- [Midnight Cowboy](#)
- [Berliner Philharmoniker – Music](#)
- [Troilus and Cressida](#)
- [Petrol Jesus Nightmare #5](#)

Some other shows that have been "picked" by several critics that we will also be watching out for - by reading reviews or through "the word on the street" - include:

- [Unprotected](#)
- [Marlon Brando's Corset](#)
- [Platform](#)
- [Zidane: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Portrait - Film](#)
- [An Inconvenient Truth – Film](#)
- [Realism](#)
- [Scottish Ballet - Dance](#)
- [StreetLife - Dance](#)
- [Levelland](#)
- [Pauline Goldsmith – Should've Had The Fish](#)
- [Ketzal \(Derevo\) - Dance](#)

Finally, other picks that have had several mentions include:

- [We Don't Know Shi'ite](#)
- [Bloggers – Real Internet Diaries](#)
- [Improbable Frequency](#)
- [Scottish Dance Theatre – Dance](#)
- [Nederlands Dans Theater - Dance](#)

- Seamus Heaney - Book
- Harold Pinter - Book
- The Goodies Still Rule OK
- Bill Bailey - Steampunk
- Paul Merton's Silent Clowns
- Jim Henson's Puppet Improv
- C-90

It may be noticed that there is a modest amount of comedy, music and dance in the above lists. This is simply because there is little consensus among the critics. Of course, there are likely to be many excellent shows that will be unearthed by them (and by us punters) during the festival – so do not rely solely on previews, look out for and read reviews when they appear and, most importantly, listen to the word on the street.

Except for the sites that can be monitored for news, the links to previews that follow on this page are in ascending date order. I will endeavour to add to the list up until the start of the Fringe. Let me know if you spot any useful articles.

### **Sites to Generally Monitor for Festival News**

<http://living.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=933> Living.Scotsman.com is undoubtedly the best site to keep an eye on for general Fringe news

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/edinburgh2006/0,,1795643,00.html> followed by The Guardian

<http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/section/0,,23229,00.html> The Times festival pages have now appeared (29<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://www.edinburgh-festivals.com/news.cfm> This is part of a Festival portal that is provided by The Scotsman. While it is one of the key places to find reviews once the Festival has started, useful news and previews have now started to appear (20<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://www.britishtheatreguide.info/news/newsindexE.htm> British Theatre Guide - scroll down this "E" index until you find Edinburgh entries

### **Previews in June - Early Out of the Blocks**

<http://living.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=933&id=859222006> Fringe Theatre – The Scotsman (10<sup>th</sup> June 2006)

<http://living.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=933&id=858872006> Fringe Comedy – The Scotsman (11<sup>th</sup> June 2006)

<http://living.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=933&id=858892006> Fringe Music – The Scotsman (11<sup>th</sup> June 2006)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-2218258.html> Fringe - The Sunday Times (11<sup>th</sup> June 2006)

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/edinburgh2006/story/0,,1795752,00.html> International & Fringe – The Guardian (12<sup>th</sup> June 2006)

<http://www.edinburgh-festivals.com/topics.cfm?tid=893&id=883472006> Book – The Scotsman (16<sup>th</sup> June 2006)

<http://www.britishtheatreguide.info/news/edfringe06underbelly.htm> Article about the 2006 programme at the Underbelly (23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006)

### **Previews in July – Getting Closer**

<http://www.broadwaybaby.com/> Fringe – Broadway Baby is described as a theatre site for theatre people (9th July 2006)

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/edinburgh2006/story/0,,1819137,00.html> More suggestions across the festivals from The Guardian (13<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://living.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=933&id=1027682006> Latest Festival-wide picks from The Scotsman (16<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://www.scene4.com/html/kapsaski-rev-jul06.html> Intro to Fringe and brief picks from Scene 4 magazine (19<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/170cc3b8-191f-11db-b02f-0000779e2340.html> First coherent article spotted this year (as opposed to lists of picks with brief descriptions). It concentrates on recommended examples of Verbatim Theatre at this year's Fringe – FT (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2006)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/arts/main.jhtml?xml=/arts/2006/07/22/btedinburgh22.xml&page=1> Picks across the Festival – Daily Telegraph (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2006)

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,,1826712,00.html> Picks from The Observer (23<sup>rd</sup> July 2006)

The Independent has been slow to provide much so far. However, there is a useful preview article on [Black Watch](#) (26<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/critic/feature/0,,1831193,00.html> Interview with Rona Munro who has produced a Scots version of Evelyne de la Chenelière's Québécois play "Strawberries in January" which will be staged at the Traverse – Guardian (26<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

The [Glasgow Herald](#) is a useful source. Unfortunately, items that are older than two days are archived into "Back Issues" which is a subscription service. I have therefore refrained from quoting links. I can only suggest that you monitor their site regularly to pick up snippets before they get archived (or buy a paper if you can get hold of one).

Preview of the [Adam Elsheimer exhibition](#) at the Royal Scottish Academy – Daily Telegraph (27<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

[Interview with Mel Smith](#) who is appearing in Allegiance – Daily Telegraph (20<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

Review of [Van Gogh exhibition](#) at the Dean Gallery (Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art) – Scotsman (16<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

Preview of [Paul Mapplethorpe exhibition](#) at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art – The Times (29<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,23229-2285008,00.html> Preview of Film Festival – The Times (29<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

[http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,23229-2284914\\_1,00.html](http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,23229-2284914_1,00.html) Theatre picks (at bottom of page) – The Times (29<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/ce49e076-1e18-11db-9877-0000779e2340.html> Article by Ian Shuttleworth on the pressures faced by Edinburgh – FT (29<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

<http://www.festivalpreviews.com/> is an interesting idea. It contains video clips of forthcoming shows. Currently (30<sup>th</sup> July 2006), there are only 20+ clips but it may eventually take off.

<http://www.edinburghguide.com/festival/> a bit late in the day to appear but the usual thorough set of previews – EdinburghGuide.com (31<sup>st</sup> July 2006)

## Previews in August – Any More For Any More

Preview of [Ron Mueck's exhibition](#) of "hyper-real" sculptures at the Royal Scottish Academy – Daily Telegraph (1st August 2006)

Ah! The first sighting of the perennial [Is Edinburgh Really Necessary](#) article (Independent 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006), questioning its relevance and speculating on the city that is going to take over from it. My "favourite" of this genre was the [good cop bad cop](#) routine on the subject of the Fringe by Lyn Gardner and Michael Billington in The Guardian back in 2002.

Preview of [Been There: Harry Benson's 50 Years of Photojournalism](#) at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery – Scotsman (15<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

Preview of Dance programme at [Aurora Nova](#) – Scotsman (6<sup>th</sup> August 2006)

[Top 20](#) but generally the most [in-depth previews](#) that I have come across - The List (6<sup>th</sup> August 2006)



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## Info on Reviews of Shows at the 2006 Edinburgh Festival

The main objective of this page is to tell you where you can find reviews on the web. The second objective is to provide a summary of those shows which have scored most marks with the critics. I will also provide a list of my own personal favourites.

### Where to Find 2006 Reviews

- [Scotsman](#)
- [Guardian](#) though [this page](#) seems to contain more recent reviews
- [BroadwayBaby.com](#)
- [Times](#)
- [Skinnyfest](#)
- [ThreeWeeks](#) (need to register)
- [EdinburghGuide.com](#)
- [The List](#)
- [Glasgow Herald](#) but beware that items are archived to a subscription service after 2 days
- [The Independent](#) includes some reviews written by readers
- [Daily Telegraph](#) (though not many)

### Most Critically Acclaimed Shows (Final Update – 23rd August 2006)

Let me start off by stating the obvious: there are many enjoyable shows which never make these lists. We have seen many "minor classics" in Edinburgh over the years, many of which went largely unnoticed by the critics. Indeed, we have a number of shows in our planned schedule for this year that have had little publicity during the "preview season". So, do not be a complete slave to reviews: listen to the "word on the street" and perhaps try something different – you might be pleasantly surprised.

The minimum requirement to get onto the following lists is that a show must have had a minimum of three reviews, which is not easy.

There is no doubt that this year's "hot" show is [Black Watch](#).

## Theatre

- [Black Watch](#)
- [Particularly In The Heartland](#)
- [Improbable Frequency](#) – with music
- [End of the Rainbow](#) – with music
- [The Receipt](#)
- [Tom Crean – Antarctic Explorer](#)
- [My Name is Rachel Corrie](#)
- [Unprotected](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Radio](#)
- [Brick Walls](#)
- [Gizmo Love](#)
- [The Regina Monologues](#)

## Dance / Physical Theatre

- [Sclavi: Song of the Emigrant](#) – music with raw physicality
- [Into The Hoods](#) – dance / theatre
- [Hysteria](#) – physical theatre
- [Knots](#) – dance
- [Tapeire](#) – tap dancing

## Comedy

- [We are Klang](#)
- [Doug Stanhope](#)
- [Phil Nichol](#)
- [Adam Hills](#)
- [Terry Alderton](#)
- [C-90](#) - this is in the theatre section of the programme but it is comedy as far as I am concerned.
- [Tim Minchin](#)

## Personal Favourites

My particular favourites that did not manage to make the above lists are:

- [Terre Haute](#) (Theatre) – an excellent two-hander (well-acted, typical Edinburgh vignette)
- [Ketzal](#) (Dance) by Derevo is rightly playing to full houses, despite some curiously mixed reviews
- [PumpGirl](#) (Theatre) – solid Bush Theatre show where the three characters use monologues rather than dialogue
- [Allegiance](#) (Theatre) – despite most of the critics carping about the use of scene setting performed by the director
- [Bill Bailey](#) (Comedy) – typical Bill Bailey
- [In Pursuit of Cardenio](#) – another typical Edinburgh piece – improvisation on the theme of historical plays (a sort of “Who’s Line is It Anyway?” for the theatre)
- [John Hegley](#) (performance poet) – typical John Hegley
- [Ron Mueck](#) (art exhibition) – includes a very interesting video on how he builds his sculptures.

Favourites that did make the above lists are: [Black Watch](#), [Improbable Frequency](#), [The Receipt](#), [Food](#), [Hysteria](#), [Unprotected](#), [Into The Hoods](#), [End of the Rainbow](#) and [C-90](#).

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